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CLAIMS:

1. A system for facilitating a transaction, the system comprising:

5 obtaining means operable to obtain information pertaining to an object that is for sale;

forwarding means operable to forward the information pertaining to the object to a first computing device that is arranged to present the information to a 10 prospective purchaser; and

establishing means operable to establish a communicating means associated with the first computing device and a second computing device that is used by a person managing a sale of the object, the communicating 15 means being such that it allows the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale to use the first computing device and the second computing device, respectively, to communicate with each other in relation to the sale of the object, thereby facilitating the transaction.

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2. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communicating means is operable to assist the person managing the sale to conduct the sale in accordance with an auction process or a tender process.

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3. The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tender process comprises a closed tender process or an open tender process.

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4. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the communicating means is operable to restrict an ability of the prospective purchaser to communicate with the person managing the sale based on whether the prospective person is registered to participate 35 in the sale of the object.

5. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1

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to 4, wherein the communicating means is operable to create a record of communication between the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale.

5 6. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the communicating means is operable to allow a party to use a third computing device to access and edit the information pertaining to the sale.

10 7. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain the information pertaining to the object from a computer system via a first communication network.

15 8. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the obtaining means is operable to determine whether it is authorised to receive the information pertaining to the object.

20 9. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the forwarding means is operable to use a second communication network in order to forward the information pertaining to the object to the first computing device.

25 10. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain additional information associated with an agency engaged by an owner of the object to oversee the sale of the object, whilst the forwarding means is operable to forward the additional information to the first computing device which is arranged to present the additional information to the prospective purchaser.

35 11. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the information pertaining to the sale comprises: an image of the object; details of the sale;

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and/or a contract for the sale of the object.

12. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the object comprises real estate.

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13. A method for facilitating a transaction, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information pertaining to an object that is for sale;

10 forwarding the information pertaining to the object to a first computing device that is arranged to present the information to a prospective purchaser; and establishing a communicating means associated with the first computing device and a second computing device that is used by a person managing a sale of the object, the communicating means being such that it allows the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale to use the first computing device and the second computing device, respectively, to communicate with each other in relation to the sale of the object, thereby facilitating the transaction.

15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 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7230 7235 7240 7245 7250 7255 7260 7265 7270 7275 7280 7285 7290 7295 7300 7305 7310 7315 7320 7325 7330 7335 7340 7345 7350 7355 7360 7365 7370 7375 7380 7385 7390 7395 7400 7405 7410 7415 7420 7425 7430 7435 7440 7445 7450 7455 7460 7465 7470 7475 7480 7485 7490 7495 7500 7505 7510 7515 7520 7525 7530 7535 7540 7545 7550 7555 7560 7565 7570 7575 7580 7585 7590 7595 7600 7605 7610 7615 7620 7625 7630 7635 7640 7645 7650 7655 7660 7665 7670 7675 7680 7685 7690 7695 7700 7705 7710 7715 7720 7725 7730 7735 7740 7745 7750 7755 7760 7765 7770 7775 7780 7785 7790 7795 7800 7805 7810 7815 7820 7825 7830 7835 7840 7845 7850 7855 7860 7865 7870 7875 7880 7885 7890 7895 7900 7905 7910 7915 7920 7925 7930 7935 7940 7945 7950 7955 7960 7965 7970 7975 7980 7985 7990 7995 8000 8005 8010 8015 8020 8025 8030 8035 8040 8045 8050 8055 8060 8065 8070 8075 8080 8085 8090 8095 8100 8105 8110 8115 8120 8125 8130 8135 8140 8145 8150 8155 8160 8165 8170 8175 8180 8185 8190 8195 8200 8205 8210 8215 8220 8225 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17. The method as claimed in any one of claims
13 to 16, wherein the communicating means is operable to
create a record of communication between the prospective
5 purchaser and the person managing the sale.

18. The method as claimed in any one of claims
13 to 17, wherein the communicating means is operable to
allow a party to use a third computing device to access and
10 edit the information pertaining to the object.

19. The method as claimed in any one of claims
13 to 18, wherein the step of obtaining the information
pertaining to the object comprises obtaining the
15 information from a computer system via a communication
network.

20. The method as claimed in any one of claims
13 to 19, wherein the step of obtaining the information
20 pertaining to the object comprises determining whether the
information pertaining to the object is authorised to be
obtained.

21. The method as claimed in any one of claims
25 13 to 20, wherein the step of forwarding the information
comprises using a communication network in order to forward
the information pertaining to the sale to the first
computing device.

30 22. The method as claimed in any one of claims
13 to 21, wherein the method further comprises the step of
obtaining additional information associated with an agency
engaged by an owner of the object to oversee the sale of
the object, whilst the step of forwarding the information
35 comprises forwarding the additional information to the
first computing device which is arranged to present the
additional information to the prospective purchaser.

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23. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 22, wherein the information pertaining to the sale comprises: an image of the object; details of the sale; 5 and/or a contract for the sale of the object.

24. The method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 23, wherein the object comprises real estate.

10 25. A computer program that comprises at least one instruction for causing a computing device to carry out the method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 24.

15 26. A computer readable medium comprising the computer program claimed in claim 25.

27. The system as claimed in claim 1 and substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.

20 28. The method as claimed in claim 13 and substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.